

Wabash College Class of 2002



It has certainly been some time since our last letter. I recently had the pleasure to run into fellow classmate **Nick Guzik '02** in San Francisco, CA, where I was attending a conference and he was looking for a place to live for the next year. Nick just graduated from IU's MBA program and will be working there for Pfizer. As we enjoyed a few beers, I was reminded that I had gotten away from my responsibility of keeping our class well informed and connected. And there was no better time than now to share a short letter. As you may know, the end of the fiscal year is fast approaching, and I for one have put donation to the college on the back burner. As I read about all the things that Wabash is doing for its students, I realized that now is as good a time as any to make our donations. They have begun restoration on the athletic fields (see below). The college has continued its dedication to experiencing and learning abroad, as the immersion programs continue to be strong; the glee club completed a 2-week trip to Ecuador. Please enjoy a couple news stories and class updates.

Wabash Shines in The Princeton Review's College Guide

In addition to its top-10 rankings for the College's outstanding professors, The Princeton Review once again named Wabash a Best Buy selection in its annual college guide. Wabash ranked in the top-50 "Best Buys" among the 650 schools that qualified for the ranking. Last fall, the same publication gave Wabash an academic rating of 98 (out of 99) and ranked Wabash third nationally in the "Most Accessible Professors" category. Meanwhile, the online college guide Unigo (www.unigo.com), which gathers its information only from students, places Wabash first nationally in the "Most Committed Professors" category.

DePauw joins NCAC

Just in case anyone thought the annual Monon Bell Game didn't have enough hype, importance, and pressure, DePauw University has accepted an invitation to join the North Coast Athletic Conference to replace the departing Earlham College.

DePauw will start competition effective July 1, 2011, and effective with the 2012 football season. The school has been a member of the SCAC since 1998. The annual, season-ending Bell game between DePauw and Wabash would be a conference game as well starting in 2012.

Wabash Athletic Director Tom Bambrey said the school's athletic programs are delighted to welcome the Tigers. "Of course, we have continued to play DePauw in all men's sports during their time in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference and our rivalry remains intense and respectful. We admire the competitiveness of DePauw's teams, year in and year out. Now we will have the additional opportunity of playing them within the conference, so we expect our rivalry to be even more meaningful for us and for them."

"Obviously, it's really good for all the other sports creating a balanced schedule," Little Giant Football Coach Erik Raeburn said. But Raeburn, 1-1 in Bell Games and 20-4 in two years at Wabash, isn't sure the annual battle for the Monon Bell can get any bigger.

"I think it's such a big game that it's hard to believe it could get any bigger. But I guess if we're conference rivals it could make it more intense."

Athletic fields upgrade

A \$6.2 million project to upgrade the football, baseball, soccer, and intramural facilities at Wabash College is underway.



The project, announced in March by President Patrick White, shows the continued commitment by Wabash College to provide first-class facilities not only for its students in the classroom, but also for those looking to stay physically fit through collegiate, intramural, and recreational sports.

Mud Hollow, where baseball has been played for 50 consecutive years, will soon become the new playing field for the Wabash soccer team with synthetic turf, permanent seating, a press

box, and restrooms. The Hollow will also have two additional fields to be used for practice for the football team, as well as intramural sports.

Baseball will compete next season in the grassy lot on the southwest side of the Allen Center. Formerly the site of practice football fields, the baseball stadium will include permanent seating, batting cages, bullpens, a press box, a concession and restroom complex, and new scoreboard.

Finally, the playing surface at Byron P. Hollett Little Giant Stadium will be upgraded from grass to synthetic turf.

The first phase of the project began Monday, as concrete was poured to build a bridge for bulldozers and heavy equipment to safely cross the J Owen Huntsman Outdoor Track. The machinery will be used to start plowing up the football field in preparation for the new turf field.



The improvements to the football field will be completed by August 1, just in time for Coach Erik Raeburn and the Little Giants to begin the 2010 campaign.

Construction of the baseball stadium is set to begin in several weeks and run through the fall.

Class notes

Congratulations to **Michael Charbonneau '02** who was named one of the “40 under 40” in the greater South Bend area. He is currently the manager of communication and public affairs, Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (NIPSCO).

His community involvement includes serving on the board of directors of the St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce, the Warsaw/Kosciusko Chamber of Commerce, La Porte County United Way, Juvenile Justice Center/Central Academy, Family and Children’s Center Counseling and Development Services, and Starke United. He volunteers for the Center for the Homeless, serving on its Young Professionals Against Poverty committee and is a mentor at the Central Academy for the Juvenile Justice Center.

Doug Lukins '02 (doug.lukins02 - douglas.lukins@gmail.com):

I am getting married in June to Cheryl Young, a 2004 DePauw grad. We are living in Grand Rapids, Michigan while I finish my radiology residency. Following that, we will move to Atlanta, Georgia where Cheryl will be doing her residency in anesthesiology.

Dean of the College Gary Phillips was honored by the Western Pennsylvania Association of Wabash Men as the 2010 "Man of the Year." The association's leader, **Eriks Janelsins '02**, introduced Dean Phillips at the dinner that celebrated his achievements.



Fundraising

Last year our class gave at a rate of 22%. We currently stand at about 19%. It is our goal to get this above last year's rate, and hopefully up to 25%. Please help us make this possible by going to www.wabash.edu and making your donation today!

Thanks

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